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TRAVEL beyond the beach

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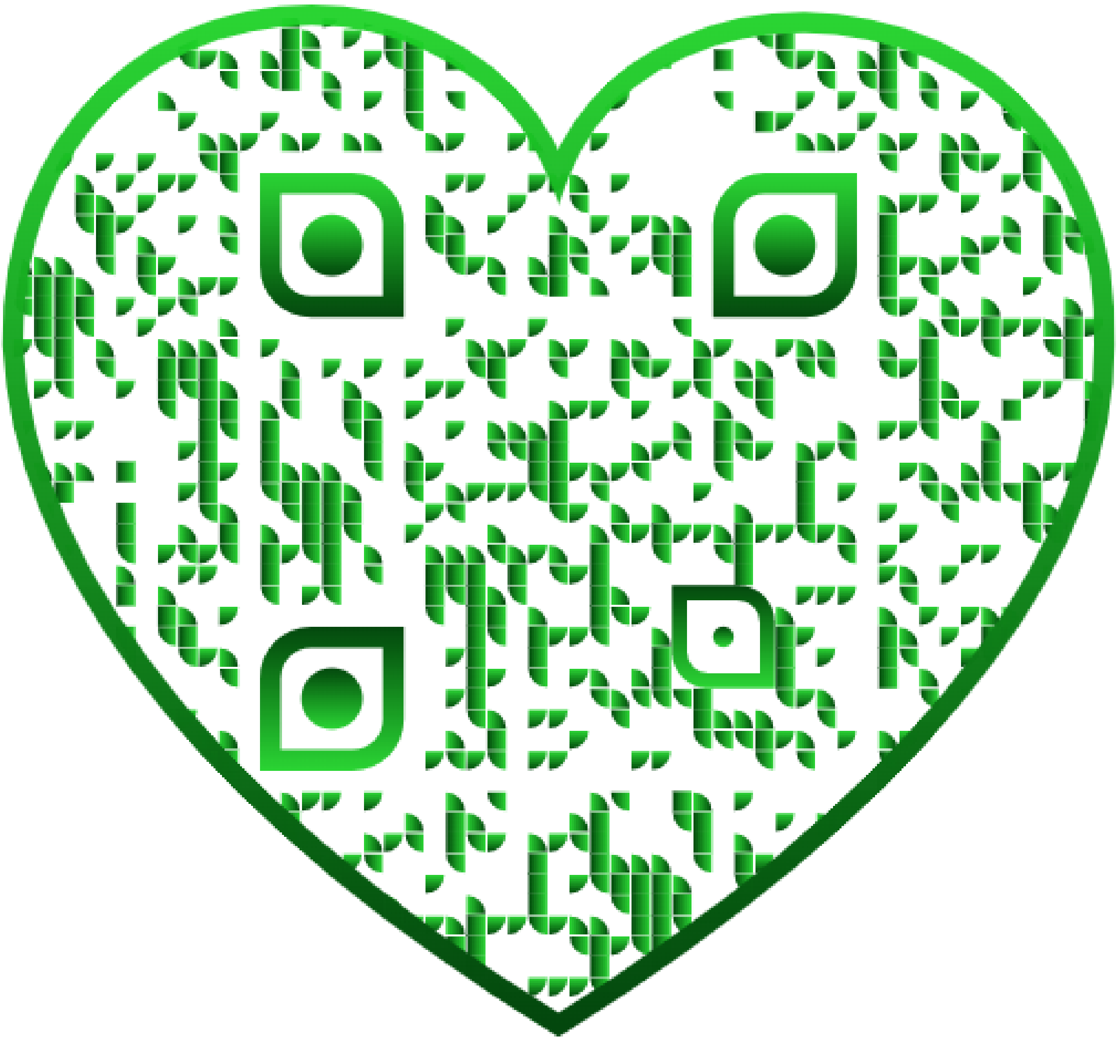

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It's all about triggering emotion via imagery. When I convey the very essence of a situation with a single photograph, then I am complete, because the viewer understands more than the moment, they know the situation.

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I am the Caribbean.

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Travel allows me to open my eyes to the world as every destination or culture is a new piece of the puzzle to this multi-faceted world. Every experience a new story with the endless possibilities to get lost and found at once. One journey at a time it allows me to grow and collect little treasures along the way.

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Contributor

I'm a chef with Champagne taste and a beer budget, but always seem to find myself surrounded by the most amazing people in the most amazing places. From eating termites in the Honduran jungle to learning how to make dim sum in Hong Kong, for me treasure is in the story.

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My roots may be Chilean, but my vacation of choice will always be a cruise to the Caribbean. St. Thomas, I'm coming!

MICHAEL SOBEL

Contributor

Time passes like wind on my cheeks. However, with each new travel experience, there is a rebirth. New personal growth and new friends no matter what stage of life.

- Michael Sobel

Tacos, Tequila, & TURQUOISE

A Culinary Journey at GRAND VELAS RIVIERA MAYA

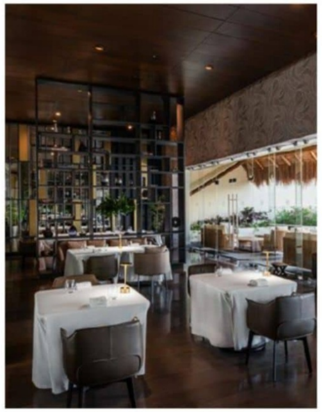
Perched along the pristine stretch of Mexico's Caribbean coast, the Grand Velas Riviera Maya instantly feels like a place suspended in time—where turquoise waters meet soft, white sand, and every detail whispers luxury. From the moment we arrived, the resort's seamless elegance embraced us. Palm-lined pathways led us to our suite, a sprawling second-floor sanctuary with a private plunge pool overlooking the endless expanse of the Caribbean. The suite was generously proportioned, every corner thoughtfully designed, and the balcony became our morning refuge, where the sun rose over the sea and painted everything in golden light.

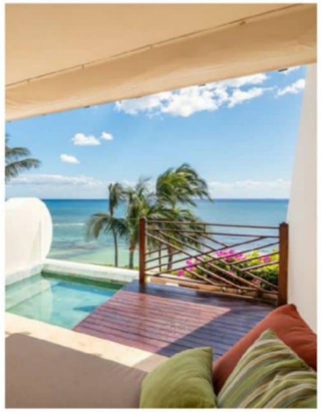
But what truly set this stay apart was the culinary promise of Grand Velas. As a resort recognized with AAA Five Diamond status and home to the MICHELIN-starred Cocina de Autor, it is at the forefront of gastronomic innovation in Mexico. Here, dining transcends simple indulgence—it becomes an immersive experience. From the first bite at Cocina de Autor, I was transported: intricate flavors told stories of regional ingredients, ancestral traditions, and the chefs' boundless creativity. Mikel Alonso and Nahúm Velasco, the resort's celebrated culinary masterminds, have crafted menus that are nothing short of art. Each dish dazzled with precision, balance, and a flair that kept us guessing until the final mouthful.

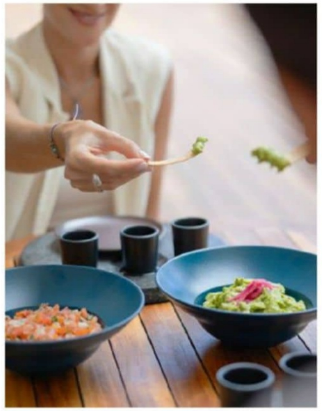
Yet, even the most elevated dining experience took on an entirely new dimension when we immersed ourselves in the Tacology experience. This was more than a cooking class—it was a celebration of Mexico's culinary heritage, with tacos as the star of the show. We began by learning the art of nixtamalization, the ancient method of treating corn, and how it shapes the very soul of a tortilla. Rolling our own dough and pressing it with the classic tortilla maker was both meditative and playful; there's something almost magical about shaping the foundation of a taco with your own hands.

The process of making salsas was equally transformative. Roasting tomatoes, peppers, and onions over open flames filled the air with smoky, heady aromas, and then blending them into sauces allowed us to taste the nuances of heat, sweetness, and acidity in every spoonful. Each salsa became a story—an intimate expression of flavor and technique that could elevate even the simplest taco into an unforgettable bite. Watching the chefs guide us with gentle precision, their passion evident in every gesture, made every moment feel personal and profoundly connected to Mexico's rich culinary traditions.

Evenings at Grand Velas were a continuation of this sensory journey. After an indulgent dinner, we would retreat to our suite, letting the Caribbean's turquoise waves lull us into quiet reflection. The plunge pool became our private sanctuary, where we'd float under the stars, cocktail in hand, replaying the day's flavors, aromas, and textures. And while luxury often suggests stillness, the resort also offered the perfect blend of activity. One morning, we took to the property on bicycles, pedaling along winding pathways lined with lush tropical flora, past infinity pools and hidden gardens, and discovering quiet corners that felt like private retreats. The gentle breeze carried the scent of frangipani and saltwater, and every turn revealed a new perspective on the resort's thoughtful design. It was the perfect balance of movement and serenity, of playfulness and indulgence.







The next highlight of our culinary immersion was the "Sin Salsa No Hay Taco" workshop, a masterclass in the artistry of pairing ingredients and balancing flavors. Here, the chefs invited us to explore the subtle magic of Mexican salsas, illustrating how each variation—from fiery habanero to smoky chipotle—transforms the humble taco into a vessel of flavor and history. By the time we reached the closing taco tour, we had traveled across Mexico in taste alone, sampling regional styles and creative interpretations that celebrated the country's diverse culinary landscape. Sharing these tacos at a vibrant farewell fiesta felt like the culmination of a journey that had been both intimate and indulgent, educational and playful.

Yet, the resort never forgot the importance of balance. Cocina de Autor remained the jewel in our dining experience, a place where we returned night after night to witness culinary artistry at its peak. Each course was a symphony of textures and flavors, a masterful blend of tradition and innovation. From delicate seafood creations infused with tropical notes to bold, earthy dishes that honored Mexico's interior regions, every plate was an exploration of both place and possibility. Paired with wines chosen to complement each nuance, dining here felt like a personal invitation into a world where food is not just sustenance but storytelling.

Between culinary adventures, the suite and plunge pool became our refuge. Mornings started with sun-dappled Caribbean views, coffee in hand, and afternoons slipped by in a rhythm of relaxation, punctuated by dips into the pool, quiet reading, or simply soaking in the colors of the sea. The suite itself offered space, comfort, and refinement—a combination rarely found even in luxury resorts. Every detail, from the plush bedding to the soft lighting, felt considered, making each return feel like a homecoming.

"THIS WAS MORE THAN A COOKING CLASS—IT WAS A CELEBRATION OF MEXICO'S CULINARY HERITAGE, WITH TACOS AS THE STAR OF THE SHOW."

> FOR ANYONE WHO SEEKS MORE THAN JUST A VACATION, WHO LONGS FOR A PLACE WHERE LUXURY, CULTURE, AND GASTRONOMY INTERTWINE, GRAND VELAS RIVIERA MAYA IS THAT RARE DESTINATION.

On the days we explored beyond the suite, the resort's amenities offered endless possibilities. Our cycling excursions revealed hidden nooks of the property, secret gardens, and shaded alcoves perfect for quiet contemplation. The rhythmic cadence of pedals, the sun overhead, and the scent of tropical flora made the journey as rewarding as the destinations themselves. It was a playful complement to the luxury that awaited at every corner, whether a perfectly chilled cocktail by the infinity pool, a spa treatment that seemed to melt away time, or a quiet terrace overlooking the Caribbean, where the horizon felt infinite.

GRAND VELAS

By the end of our stay, it was clear that Grand Velas Riviera Maya is not just a resort—it is a celebration of the senses. The turquoise sea, the culinary artistry, the indulgent accommodations, and the playful excursions combined to create a tapestry of experiences that felt both curated and personal. Every moment, from rolling tortilla dough to savoring Michelin-starred creations, from cycling through secret garden paths to floating under a starlit plunge pool, was imbued with intention, beauty, and care.

Travel, for us, is always about connection—connection to place, to culture, and to each other. At Grand Velas, this connection was effortless. Mexico's traditions, its flavors, its vibrant energy, and its boundless natural beauty were all presented with sophistication, warmth, and heart. Whether crafting salsas with our own hands, learning the secrets behind each Michelin-starred dish, or simply watching the Caribbean waves shimmer from our balcony, we felt both immersed and elevated.

For anyone who seeks more than just a vacation, who longs for a place where luxury, culture, and gastronomy intertwine, Grand Velas Riviera Maya is that rare destination. It invites you to slow down, savor, and discover—whether through the artistry of a perfectly balanced salsa, the meticulous creativity of a Michelin-starred tasting menu, or the simple joy of a morning spent cycling through sun-dappled pathways. Here, every moment is curated yet intimate, lavish yet personal. And as we reluctantly packed our bags and took a final dip in the plunge pool, it was clear that our stay had left an indelible mark: a vibrant tapestry of tastes, sights, and memories that will linger long after the turquoise waves fade from view.

www.rivieramaya.grandvelas.com

Island Indulgence

LUXE EXPERIENCES AT JW MARRIOTT ST. MAARTEN

From private island tours to poolside cabanas and indulgent spa treatments, discover a St. Maarten escape where every moment is crafted for luxury and leisure.

JW MARRIOTT

There's a particular thrill in arriving somewhere and knowing instantly that your getaway has been meticulously tailored to delight every sense. At the JW Marriott in St. Maarten, that feeling hits the moment you step off the plane. Our private VIP transfer whisked us smoothly from the tarmac to the resort, the Caribbean sun sparkling on the turquoise waters as we settled into the comfort of our vehicle. Lucien, our driver from Artemia, greeted us with warmth, a ready smile, and an encyclopedic knowledge of the island. Throughout our stay, he became more than a driver—he was our personal guide, storyteller, and ambassador of St. Maarten's vibrant culture.

Upon arrival at the resort, it was immediately clear that the JW Marriott embodies a rare blend of polished sophistication and effortless island charm. The lobby sparkled with natural light, the scent of tropical blossoms filling the air, and staff who seemed to anticipate every need before it was voiced. Our accommodations were the perfect starting point for indulgence: spacious, impeccably designed rooms opening onto private balconies with views that spanned the glimmering lagoon to the horizon, where sky and sea merged into endless shades of blue.

A Morning Awakening at Carambola

Our mornings began with breakfast at Carambola, the resort's signature dining venue. Each plate arrived like a palette of Caribbean artistry: sun-bright papaya, pineapple, and mango arranged with elegance; delicate pastries that flaked like clouds; and eggs prepared exactly to our preference, elevated with herbs and island spices. The gentle murmur of other guests, the soft sway of palm trees, and the distant splash of the ocean created a serene soundtrack to the first meal of the day.

On Friday, after a leisurely breakfast, Lucien greeted us promptly at 10:00 AM for an island tour that was equal parts adventure and cultural immersion. The drive itself was a treat, winding along sun-drenched coastal roads and past charming villages, each turn revealing another postcard-perfect vista. Lucien shared stories of St. Maarten's rich history, from its colonial roots to the fusion of cultures that define the island today. Our journey led us to Orient Bay, a beach renowned for its sparkling sands and vibrant energy. Lunch was a seaside affair, with seafood fresh from local waters, prepared simply yet brilliantly, allowing the flavors of the island to shine. The ocean lapped rhythmically as we savored each bite, the sun warming our shoulders and the soft breeze carrying the scent of salt and coconut.

Culinary Adventures at JW Marriott

Returning to the resort, the afternoon brought another form of indulgence: a culinary class designed to reveal the secrets behind St. Maarten's signature flavors. Under the guidance of the JW Marriott's talented chefs, we learned to prepare dishes that married local ingredients with international flair. The experience was hands-on, playful, and deeply satisfying—stirring sauces, chopping fresh herbs, and tasting along the way. It was more than a class; it was an intimate conversation with the island itself, expressed through food. That evening, we enjoyed dinner at Carambola, the menu a reflection of the day's sensory journey: vibrant seafood, tropical fruits, and perfectly balanced spices that echoed the flavors we had just learned to craft. For those seeking a more casual atmosphere, the Opal Lobby Bar offered refined cocktails and light bites with panoramic views of the resort's serene pool and gardens.

> **It was more than a class; it was an intimate conversation with the island itself, expressed through food.**

Adventure and Leisure: Rhino Tours and Friar's Bay Beach

Saturday carried us into a different rhythm: adventure tempered by luxury. After breakfast, Lucien and our private vehicle transported us to the rendezvous point for Rhino Tours, a mini speedboat safari adventure. We piloted our own watercraft along the coastline of St. Maarten and cruised around to St. Martin, in an adrenaline-filled day out on the water. Lunch followed at Friar's Bay Beach, where we dined in French beach bar style at the 978 Beach Lounge—a location as picturesque as the French Riviera, with service to match. The golden sand was soft beneath our feet, and here the Caribbean Sea gently embraced us. Dining outdoors, we felt connected to the island in a visceral way—the sounds, scents, and colors of the island merging into a single, unforgettable sensory experience.

Back at the JW Marriott, we claimed a poolside cabana for the afternoon. Here, time seemed to slow. Soft cushions, attentive staff ensuring chilled drinks and fresh fruit arrived precisely when desired, and the shimmering pool mirrored the sky above. It was a day of unhurried luxury, where relaxation itself became the adventure. The cabana offered the perfect vantage point to watch the sunset unfold, painting the sky in deep oranges and pinks, the sea reflecting every shade with mesmerizing clarity. That evening, our choice of dining once again oscillated between Carambola and the Opal Lobby Bar, each offering moments of elegance and indulgence, perfectly suited to the mood of the day.

Spa Serenity

No luxury escape is complete without a spa experience, and the JW Marriott's spa is a sanctuary of tranquility. During our stay, we indulged in treatments that blended local techniques with world-class expertise. Aromatic oils infused with tropical scents, soothing music, and skilled hands created a cocoon of serenity that left us renewed and utterly pampered. Every detail, from plush robes to serene relaxation lounges, reflected the resort's commitment to holistic luxury, making the spa not just a treatment, but a cornerstone of the St. Maarten experience.

Island Insights Through Lucien

Throughout our stay, Lucien's presence elevated every experience. His knowledge of hidden beaches, local eateries, and the island's vibrant culture allowed us to experience St. Maarten beyond the surface. Whether sharing the history of the colorful Dutch and French architecture or pointing out secret coves accessible only by road, he ensured that every excursion felt exclusive, immersive, and utterly authentic. His warmth and enthusiasm made every moment feel personal, a reminder that luxury travel is as much about human connection as it is about elegant surroundings.

Moments of Pure Indulgence

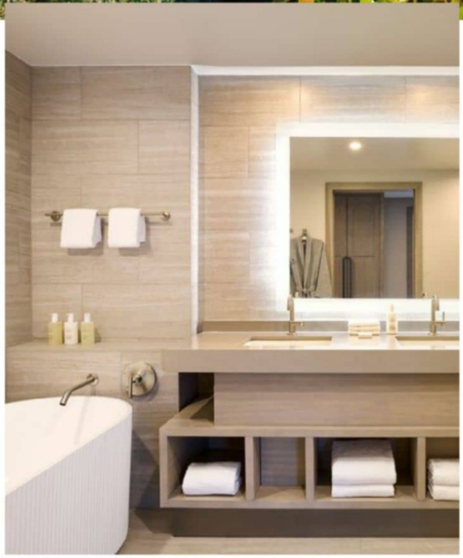
Even simple pleasures at the JW Marriott became extraordinary. Morning coffees on the balcony, the soft hum of the ocean blending with birdsong. Afternoon swims in infinity pools that seemed to stretch endlessly toward the horizon. Evening cocktails beneath swaying palms, where the sky's gradient shifted from sapphire to indigo, and the stars began to sparkle like liquid diamonds. Every moment was an invitation to savor life more fully, framed by the island's natural beauty and the resort's impeccable service.

The JW Marriott in St. Maarten excels in the art of balancing indulgence with authenticity. Each experience—from the culinary class to the Rhino Tour, from the spa to the poolside cabana—is meticulously curated yet feels effortlessly natural. It is a resort that understands the nuance of luxury: anticipating needs without intrusion, offering experiences without overwhelming, and creating spaces where relaxation and exploration coexist in perfect harmony.

By the end of our stay, the memories were vivid: the spice-laden aromas of Carambola, the thrill of driving speedboats, the soft luxury of cabanas and spa retreats, and above all, the warmth of a service team and a local guide who made St. Maarten feel like home. Every detail—the shimmer of the sea, the precision of a perfectly crafted cocktail, the intimate knowledge shared by Lucien—contributed to an experience that was both indulgent and deeply personal.

In St. Maarten, luxury isn't merely about opulence; it is about connection, discovery, and savoring the island in ways that linger long after the vacation ends. At the JW Marriott, those moments are amplified, leaving every visitor with a sense of joy, serenity, and wonder. For travelers seeking a Caribbean escape that balances sophistication with soul, adventure with leisure, the JW Marriott offers not just a stay, but a story—a tale of island indulgence written in sun, sand, and sea.

www.artemia-sxm.com



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Martinique Beyond the Beach

WHERE ADVENTURE MEETS ELEGANCE IN THE FRENCH CARIBBEAN

By: Jarone Ashkenazi

Martinique has long seduced travelers with its sugar-soft beaches and turquoise bays, but this French Caribbean island is so much more than its postcard-perfect shoreline. Here, adventure hums beneath the rainforest canopy, rumbles from the slopes of a restless volcano, and whispers through mangrove tunnels where herons glide low over glassy water. The island blends old-world French charm with untamed natural beauty, creating a rare destination where luxury and raw nature meet in perfect rhythm.

For travelers craving an elevated escape that stirs the spirit as much as it soothes it, Martinique is an island that invites you to go deeper—into its forests, its culture, its flavors, and its fiercely protected heritage.

A CREATIVE, COLORFUL WELCOME IN TROIS-ÎLETS

Your Martinique journey begins at Village de la Poterie, a vibrant enclave in Trois-Îlets where the island's artisanal heart beats strongest. Once home to a colonial pottery site, it has evolved into a lively creative village filled with terracotta workshops, boutiques, and breezy cafés. Travelers can slip their hands into cool clay during a pottery lesson—an unexpected, grounding moment that sets the tone for the immersive days ahead.

Just minutes away, Hotel Bambou offers the perfect base for a stylish nature-forward escape. Its colorful Creole bungalows spill through tropical gardens toward the sea, and the property's three hillside villas—private, serene, and kissed by Caribbean breezes—give guests a blissful hideaway overlooking Anse Mitan. It's the kind of place where you unpack once and instantly exhale.

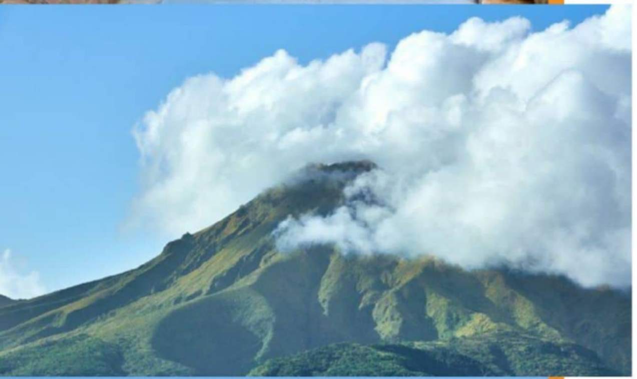
MANGROVES, MICROBREWS & MEANINGFUL HISTORY

Morning breaks in the mangroves of Ducos Canal Cocotte, where narrow waterways twist through emerald-green tunnels of interlaced roots. Herons and egrets skim the water as crabs scuttle along the banks—an untouched ecosystem best explored quietly, slowly, reverently.

A short drive leads to BenZel, a microbrewery in Rivière-Salée turning local ingredients into crisp, golden expressions of Martinican terroir. As the island's first Silver medalist at the 2025 General Agricultural Competition, it's a must-stop for craft beer lovers seeking a taste of the unexpected.

But Martinique's stories run deep, and nowhere is that more powerfully felt than at Cap 110 in Le Diamant. Artist Laurent Valère's fifteen stark white statues face the sea, honoring enslaved Africans lost in a nearby shipwreck. It's a moment of quiet reflection—solemn, humbling, and grounding.

Evening brings you back to the calm shores of Anse Mitan for dinner at Kano Restaurant, where the setting sun bathes the water in warm gold and each plate celebrates the island's culinary soul.



RAINFOREST ROADS & RUINS RECLAIMED BY TIME

The next day unfurls on La Route de la Trace, a lush, serpentine road slicing through the northern rainforest. Mist lifts off the treetops as you step into Balata Garden, a dreamy botanical haven filled with towering palms, tropical blooms, and suspended bridges offering sweeping canopy views.

Not far away lies Saint-Pierre, once the cosmopolitan "Little Paris of the Caribbean." The town's cobblestone streets and preserved ruins whisper the story of Mount Pelée's 1902 eruption, which forever changed the island's history. Standing inside the jail cell of the eruption's sole survivor is a stark reminder of nature's force—and human resilience.

RUM, RHYTHM & THE ISLAND'S WILD SOUL

Martinique's rum heritage is legendary, and no trip is complete without exploring its AOC-protected rhum agricole. At Le Petibonum, a lively beachfront spot, the rum masterclass dives deep into the art and science of sugarcane distillation. Afterward, Chef Guy Ferdinand serves a feast of seafood and Creole specialties steps from the surf—an only-in-Martinique kind of experience.

Thrill seekers set their sights on Mount Pelée, the island's crown jewel. Guided by local expert Gilles Vickrobek, trekkers ascend through mist-wrapped forests to the volcano's 1,397-meter summit. At the top, a view that spans from the Caribbean to the Atlantic feels like a reward the Earth itself has offered.

After the descent, a refreshing dip in a mountain river near Grand-Rivière restores every tired muscle. Lunch at Chez Tante Arlette, a beloved local institution, brings comfort on a plate. The afternoon unfolds with a lesson in Bwa Flo, an ancestral sport involving tree-trunk surfing—pure joy, pure Caribbean tradition.

> "At the top, a view that spans from the Caribbean to the Atlantic feels like a reward the Earth itself has offered"

ART, CULTURE & STORIES WOVEN THROUGH TIME

Even the capital city pulses with adventure. A morning ride with Cyclo'comm reveals Fort-de-France through the eyes of a local—colonial landmarks, lively markets, breezy waterfronts.

The cultural journey continues at Habitation Clément, a historic rum estate turned open-air art museum. Contemporary sculptures dot manicured lawns, while the distillery and tasting rooms blend heritage with modern creativity.

Back in Trois-Îlets, La Savane des Esclaves adds powerful context to the island's past. Built by hand by Gilbert Larose, this extraordinary open-air museum traces four centuries of Martinican history through recreated villages and stories that honor resilience and tradition.

As night falls, dinner at Le Pitaya near the marina offers a stylish finish, complete with a kaleidoscope of poolside lights and refined island flavors.

L 179
HABITATION CLÉMENT ★ DOMAINE de L'ACAJOU
★ FRANÇOIS (MARTINIQUE) ★

A GENTLE FAREWELL TO AN ISLAND THAT STIRS EVERY SENSE

Your final morning invites a softer adventure: horseback riding with Ranch Jack, where trails meander through sunlight-dappled fields and down to the shore. It's peaceful, cinematic—an exhale after days of exhilaration.

A stop at Le Monde des Épices ensures you bring a piece of Martinique home: vanilla pods, cinnamon sticks, nutmeg, and spices bursting with the fragrance of the island's volcanic soil.

Because in Martinique, adventure and elegance aren't opposites—they're dance partners. This is an island where mountain and sea, past and present, thrill and tranquility come together seamlessly. Alive. Authentic. Unforgettable.

**Martinique doesn't ask you to choose between luxury and adventure.
It simply invites you to experience both—deeply.**

REFINED *by* NATURE

THE MONTPELIER REVIVAL

By: Peta Phipps

A BELOVED NEVIS RETREAT RETURNS TO THE SPOTLIGHT, REFRESHED, RENEWED, AND DEEPLY IN TUNE WITH THE RHYTHM OF THE CARIBBEAN.

Nestled in the gentle hills of Nevis, Montpelier has always been a sanctuary for those seeking the serene pulse of the Caribbean. On arrival, the island greets visitors with its signature blend of warm, fragrant breezes, lush greenery, and a rhythm that feels timeless yet immediate. For editor and traveler Peta Phipps, born and raised in Jamaica, the sense of place is unmistakable: "The island vibe here is real. Montpelier doesn't try to impress; it simply is."

By mid-afternoon, the transfer from St. Kitts has deposited guests at the property's refreshed gates, where Montpelier's new look is immediately apparent. The suites have been reimagined with thoughtful attention to both heritage and contemporary luxury. Light floods the spaces through generous windows, illuminating rooms where soft Caribbean hues meet rich wood finishes. Every detail—from the freshly upholstered chairs to the linens handpicked for their tactile elegance—evokes the property's renewed vitality without sacrificing its sense of history.

The hotel's exterior, too, gleams softly beneath the Nevis sun, refreshed landscaping highlighting the island's natural contours while inviting moments of quiet reflection.

Afternoon leisure at the pool allows time to absorb Montpelier's essence. With the soft lap of water and the distant sway of palms, the resort balances luxury with a grounding authenticity. Later, cocktails at The Terrace provide a first taste of the culinary attention to detail that characterizes the property's dining. Freshly muddled island-inspired cocktails set the stage for a dinner that feels intimate yet celebratory—a gentle nod to Nevis's 300-year-old sugar mill, now home to Mill Privée.

The following morning, the plan to cycle to Montpelier Beach evolves into a more adventurous exploration of Nevis's natural treasures. Guided by Michael Morton of Island Buzz, Peta and David trade pedals for hiking boots. First comes the Saddle Hill Hike, a climb that rewards with panoramic views of the island's coastline and verdant valleys. Michael, ever the storyteller, offers insight into Nevis's history and flora, seamlessly weaving in local lore that animates the landscape.

By midday, the duo embarks on the Nevis Waterfalls Hike, a three-hour roundtrip trek that injects adrenaline into the journey. The path, framed by dense tropical foliage, is alive with the chatter of monkeys and the subtle scents of rainforest blooms. At its crescendo, a cascading waterfall appears, a secluded spectacle of natural power. Water churns over sun-warmed rocks, and the surrounding mist offers an invigorating reprieve from the Caribbean sun. It's a hike that blends physical challenge with immersive, sensory reward—a side of Nevis that feels wild yet intimately connected to Montpelier's serene philosophy.

Following the adventure, the hotel ensures relaxation is effortless. A visit to the Montpelier Beach Club offers a pause by the turquoise sea, where white sands and gently lapping waves invite quiet reflection. Picnic lunches and leisurely swims remind guests that Montpelier's approach to luxury is as much about freedom and choice as it is about comfort.

> *"The island vibe here is real. Montpelier doesn't try to impress; it simply is."*
> -Peta Phipps

Back at the resort, evenings are an interplay of quiet sophistication and sensory delight. Cocktails in the Great Room are followed by dinner in the Mill Privée, where the 300-year-old sugar mill frames a dining experience that bridges past and present. Culinary offerings feel at once inventive and rooted, drawing on local ingredients while honoring the island's heritage. Later on, meals at Indigo, the poolside restaurant, extend the sense of retreat, where candlelight reflects on water and the horizon melts into twilight.

Montpelier's refreshed spaces extend beyond design into the pace and texture of guest life. There is a deliberate blending of structured experience and leisure, allowing moments of adventure—like the hikes with Michael Morton—to coexist with languid afternoons by the pool. Peta reflects, "Montpelier's beauty is not just in its rooms or its view—it's in the rhythm it offers. You feel the island here, in a way that's rare and grounding."

Throughout the stay, the property's renewed interiors harmonize with its natural surroundings. Carefully curated color palettes echo the sand, sea, and sky, while open layouts and airy terraces create a constant dialogue between indoor comfort and outdoor wonder. The gardens, with their subtle paths and hidden corners, invite discovery, whether on a morning walk or a meditative pause at sunset.

Evenings are framed by the gentle luxury of Montpelier's hospitality. Drinks at The Terrace, dinner by candlelight, and the quiet comfort of refreshed rooms create a narrative of place that lingers. The resort's understated elegance allows guests to feel both cocooned and connected, a rare combination that sets Montpelier apart from other Caribbean escapes.

The true magic, however, lies in the authenticity that Peta, as a native Caribbean traveler, notes with admiration: "You don't need to search for it—this is the real Nevis. The soul of the island is here, in the hills, the water, and the people who guide you through it." Michael Morton's presence on the hikes reinforces this sense of belonging, making every step feel purposeful and illuminated with local insight.

Montpelier's appeal is not only its renewed aesthetic but also its ability to integrate this refreshed look with the island's enduring character. Whether cycling (or hiking) through verdant paths, savoring the delicate balance of flavors in island-inspired cuisine, or basking in the calm of a private beach, guests find themselves immersed in a narrative of elegance, authenticity, and rejuvenation.

By the final morning, Montpelier's rhythm has woven itself into the experience of every guest. Breakfast at leisure, a gentle farewell stroll through the gardens, and a final sip of Caribbean sunshine leave a lasting impression. Montpelier is a retreat that celebrates both its heritage and its renewal, offering visitors an intimate, sensory, and profoundly luxurious connection to Nevis.

Montpelier, with its refreshed interiors, timeless island charm, and authentic experiences, stands as a model of how Caribbean luxury can be simultaneously refined and rooted. For those seeking a retreat that blends elevated design with the grounded heartbeat of the Caribbean, Montpelier is a destination where every moment feels both indulgent and unmistakably real.

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